

CHAPTER XXIII

THE SAN MIN CHU I—A CRITICAL SUMMARY

NATIONALISM

THE series of six lectures on Nationalism opens with one on "Ethnic Oppression/" The author deplores the fact that the Chinese, described by foreigners as "loose sand/" have the family and the clan spirit, without possessing the national spirit. In an attempt to distinguish between race and nation he cites the example of the Chinese in Hongkong. "That city" he said, "certainly did not derive its origin from the fact that hundreds of thousands of inhabitants of Hongkong welcomed the British/* It certainly did not, as when the island was occupied by Great Britain it was little more than a barren rock, and the nearly a million Chinese who now inhabit the Colony have presumably migrated thither to share in its welfare and prosperity, and the advantages of British rule, in regard to which Dr. Sun was at one time so enthusiastic.

Dr. Sun claims that the 400,000,000 million* Chinese form a single race, "having the same blood, the same spoken and written language, the same religion, the same habits and customs, and forming a complete and independent race." Nothing could be further from the truth. There is an infinite variety of racial characteristics, dialects, and religions in China, the speech of a

Cantonese, for

*It -will l>e noticed that his estimate of
population varies in
accordance -with, the particular argument he
wishes to bolster up.